

Appl. No. 10/750,024
Amdt. Dated July 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2005

REMARKS

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects to prosecute the invention of Group II(1). Claims 8-15 are readable on Group II(1).

However, applicant traverses the restriction requirement as between Groups I and II, because there is no evidence that each of the combinations as recited in claims 8-15 and 16-17 is patentable without the details of subcombination as recited in claims 1-7 (MPEP §806.05(c) II).

In particular, referring to para. 2. on p.2 of the Office action, applicant traverses and asserts that Group II also has an incident surface for introducing light beams (see claims 8, 16) into the light guide plate (see claims 8, 16, inherent), and an emitting surface for uniformly transmitting light beams (see claims 8, 16) out from the light guide plate (see claims 8, 16, inherent). Thus, criterion (1) cited by Examiner is not satisfied.

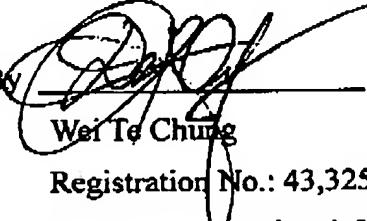
Further, applicant traverses and asserts that where the relationship between the claims is such that the separately claimed subcombination constitutes the essential distinguishing feature of the combination as claimed, the inventions are not distinct and the requirement for restriction must not be made, even if the subcombination were to have separate utility (MPEP §806.05(c.) II).

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests examination of all the pending claims 1-17.

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Respectfully submitted,

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